

HCS SB 297 -- UTILITIES

SPONSOR: Griesheimer (Jackson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Communications, Energy, and Technology by a vote of 20 to 0.

This substitute requires any state agency that operates a facility to allow residential and commercial customers to connect to the facility's sewer line under certain circumstances. The line must not be in a state park or historic site or be connected to a package sewage treatment plant or on-site sewage disposal system. Eligible customers must be located within the same sewer district or municipal sewer system as the state facility. Customers must hire an experienced engineer to demonstrate to the Division of Design and Construction and to the operator of the local sewer system that the system is capable of processing the additional sewage. If the connection is to a sewer line for a school for the deaf, blind, or severely handicapped, the State Board of Education must also approve. Customers must pay for all connection construction costs, maintenance costs in proportion to the amount of sewage generated, and reasonable fees charged by the agency.

The substitute also prohibits the City of Springfield from selling electricity, gas, water, or sewer services to customers outside the city limits at rates different from those charged customers within the city.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help both local governments and individuals by allowing them to connect to existing state-operated sewer lines.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Griesheimer.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Terry Finger, Senior Legislative Analyst